

# Air Force moves to retain pilots

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force chief of staff implemented a plan to improve rated retention. It includes moves to reduce the Air Force's high operations tempo, boost quality of life for family members and a review of flight pay for all crew members, officer and enlisted.

Besides their effect on pilots, "Many of our initiatives will positively impact navigators, weapons directors, enlisted aircrews and support personnel," said Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, chief of staff.

At a four-star pilot-retention meeting at Las Vegas, Fogleman and other senior leaders looked at issues that involved operational taskings, pilot production, use and retention. Out of that sprang the latest proposals.

"OPTEMPO was highlighted as the primary reason pilots are separating from the Air Force," Fogleman said in a message to major command commanders. "The chairman and the Joint Chiefs (of Staff) are working to prioritize and reduce the number of deployments and exercises we ask you to support."

The chief of staff said the Air Force will also try to have smaller force packages and post-deployment stand-downs to reduce OPTEMPO and improve quality of life. Meanwhile, he said, "(Major commands) need to closely examine the OPTEMPO for troops when they return from deployments."

Wing commanders would also have to balance real-world deployments and exercises and inspections, he said. The Air Force inspector general will look at how operational readiness exercises and inspections can be conducted amid real deployments, possibly suspending operational readiness evaluations and operational readiness inspections for one year until the new system is in place.

The Air Force deputy chief of staff for operations will also look at how units can conduct operational continuation training while deployed. MAJCOMs will review ancillary training needs to see what training can be done off station.



Photo by SrA. Grace Hunt

**M\*A\*S\*H**

**Members of the 48th Medical Group train with the Air Transportable Hospital recently at RAF Feltwell. The medics deploy the hospital once a year for training.**

## Meet the new commander

**Lt. Col. Bill Polowitzer**

**492nd Fighter Squadron  
"Madhatters"**

**Hometown:** Hartford, Conn.

**Time in service:** 19 Years

**Recent career history:** Assigned to the Pentagon in the Operational Requirements Division, Operations Officer for the 494th Fighter Squadron.

**Leadership philosophy:** Lead by example and be fair and consistent in your treatment of people.

**Short-term goals:** Improve the quality of life in the 492nd; recognize people for the outstanding job they perform, see through the renovation of the 492nd maintenance building.

**Personal information:** Graduated from the University of Connecticut, entered the Air Force as an aircraft maintenance officer, F-4 and F-15E weapons system officer in Europe and CONUS.



important part in my daily activity both on and off duty. These values provide the bedrock and foundation for the squadron to function as a unit.

**What is the most exciting thing that has happened to you during your Air Force career?** Taking command of a combat ready F-15E squadron, the 492nd "Madhatters." It is a privilege to lead the outstanding group of maintenance and operations professionals we have in the 492nd.

**Who is your favorite leader in history and why?** Napoleon for his ability to look at a tough problem and find a solution. Also he was short.

**What is your philosophy of life and why?**

**Hobbies:** Travel, music and do-it-yourself projects.

**How do you fulfill core values?** I believe in them; integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. They play an



Treat people as I would like them to treat me.

**Who is your role model and why?** My father who taught me never to quit and anything is possible if you try.

**What do you like best about the Air Force?** The organization and structure that encourage people to work together as a team.